

NEWSLETTER of the Wisconsin Entomological Society

Volume 18, Number 3

Les Ferge, Editor

October 1991

ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 2 IN MILWAUKEE

The Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Entomological Society will be held on Saturday, November 2 at the Milwaukee Public Museum, starting at 1:30 PM in the ground floor classroom. The collection will be open after 10:00 AM for anyone interested. Please check in with Security in the main lobby to be admitted. Directions and nearby parking areas appear on the accompanying map.

The program will feature our annual Photo Salon. Any members having slides of entomological subjects are encouraged to participate. Each entrant may submit up to five slides. The slides will be judged by the audience, whose votes will be compiled to select the winning entry. The winner's name is added to the William E. Sieker Memorial Plaque, and an 8×10 print of the first place slide is added to the photo display located in the Entomology Department office and is also awarded to the photographer. Anyone wishing to enter but not able to attend may send slides to Les Ferge at the address below.

At this time, one other short talk is tentatively scheduled, one or two more short presentations would be welcome. Ample time will be available for people to chat informally. After the meeting, we are planning an informal dinner at a nearby restaurant.

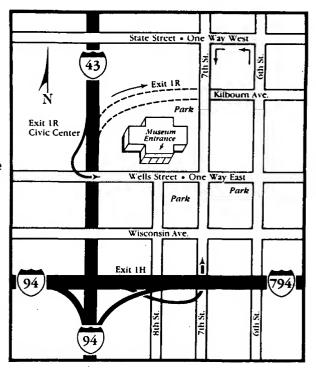
Also on the agenda is the election of officers for 1992. The nominees are: Susan Borkin, President, Phil Pellitteri, Vice President, Carol Ferge, Secretary, and Bob Borth, Treasurer. Other nominations can be made at the meeting.

DIRECTIONS

From North: South on I-43 Exit 1R (right) Civic Ctr. / Wells St. Wells St. to 8th St.

From South:
North on 1-94/1-43
Exit 1R (right)
-Civic Ctr. / Kilbourn Ave.
Left on 6th St.
Left on 7th St.

From West: East on 1-94 Exit 1H (right) Civic Ctr. / 7th St. 3 Blocks North on 7th St. to Wells St.



The Newsletter of the Wisconsin Entomological Society is published three times a year, at irregular intervals. It is provided to encourage and facilitate the exchange of information by the membership, and to keep the members informed of the activities of the organization. Members are strongly encouraged to contribute items for inclusion in the Newsletter. Please send all news items, notes, new or interesting insect records, season summaries, research requests etc. to the editor: Les Ferge, 7119 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton, WI 53562.

1992 DUES NOTICE

Enclosed in this Newsletter is your dues envelope for 1992. New members joining in the latter part of 1991 will be considered paid for 1992, and will not have an envelope enclosed. Prompt payment will be most appreciated. Please note that dues are to be sent directly to the Treasurer, Bob Borth, 6926 N. Belmont Lane, Fox Point, WI 53217. Please check the membership list included with this issue, and report any errors or address changes when you send in your dues.

FROM THE DIAGNOSTIC LAB

Phil Pellitteri

As the field season winds down, it is a good time to reflect on what 1991 was like. There are a number of ways to analyze a given summer and its insect activity. When I compare the number of phone calls I have received or the number of insect specimens that have arrived at my door, I find that I am 20% ahead of last season. Mild winters and extended growing seasons do strange things. We had some documentation of overwinter survival in some insects that was 95% or better. No wonder the phone rang so much!

For the first part of the summer, I could throw my calendar out the door, because almost everything was three weeks ahead of schedule. If you look at the weather data and heat accumulations, it all added up to a great growing season. The extended warmth also allowed many insects to sneak an additional generation in. This created great problems for people that use calendars rather than biological clocks to decide when to begin various control options.

Candidates for insect of the year must include German yellowjackets. Their nasty habit of scavenging for "people food" started very early, around August 1. By early September I got a report from a hospital in Waukesha that one in five of the people arriving at the emergency room had a "bee sting" problem. It was not a pleasant time when you tried to eat outdoors during the day. Baldface hornet nests were also easy to find, with the size of the nests suggesting they had a very strong year also.

A number of "southern insects" did well. An unusual number of calls on praying mantids, cicada killers, catalpa sphinx, euonymus caterpillar and elm leaf beetles made it seem like southern Illinois around here.

This had to be the best year for sphingids I have seen. Lots of talk about various hornworms eating grape leaves, honeysuckle bushes and various broadleaf trees. The late summer brought the "hummingbird" questions. I received a lot of cecropia calls also. There are always people who have never seen or heard of these before, even though they have seen 60 or 70 summers pass by.

The excess moisture brought booklice, foreign grain beetles, mycetophagids and other mold-loving insects out in droves. These things always show up in places they don't belong, such as food products, new homes and even on pets. I must confess, I was hoping for an early frost (mid-August?) to slow some of these insects down, as well as the lawyers that accompany them.

Rounding out the list of insects that had good seasons, I must include various chrysomelid beetles, European earwigs, zebra caterpillar (Melanchra picta), and

WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP LIST - 1991

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SIEKER	KATHERINE T		5114 MARATHON DR	MADISON	WΙ	53705
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TURNBULL	JAY		N1632 SUGARBUSH RD	ANTIGO	WI	54409 54216
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all sawflies and ant species I am aware of. The large number of cluster flies that tried to spend the winter with people gave various dermestid beetles such as the larder beetle a good year. We had one sample of insect fauna associated with a murder case, and I must confess that a forensic pathologist makes those of us who run around in fields with butterfly nets seem almost normal.

Around home, we raised luna moths and meadow fritillaries for the first time. My nine year old found out how much caterpillars eat when I left him in charge of feeding them when I was out of state for two weeks. Such is the penance a junior entomologist must suffer.

LEPIDOPTERA SEASON SUMMARY CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED

1991 Wisconsin Lepidoptera records are wanted for inclusion in the season summary which is to appear in the next W. E. S. Newsletter. Things to report include rare or unusual species occurring in your area, unusually early or late occurrences, unusual abundance or scarcity, rearing or host plant data, flowers utilized by adults, or any other observations of interest. Please indicate locality, county and the date of capture or observation. Also note if voucher specimens were retained, or if records are based on photos or sightings. Specimens whose identities are uncertain may be brought to the November meeting for verification, or arrangements to view specimens or photos at another time may be made individually. Please send reports by January 5 to: Les Ferge, 7119 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton, WI 53562.

NEWS AND NOTES

New Publication: A Guide to the Clearwing Borers (Sesiidae) of the North Central States. Taft, W.H., Smitley, D. and Snow, J.W. April, 1991. NCR Publication #394.

This publication is intended for naturalists, horticulturists, nurserymen, and extension personnel who need a handy, color reference guide to this difficult to identify group of moths. The topics covered include: identification, host plants, pheromone attractants, trapping techniques, life cycles, flight periods, and economic importance. The guide includes 35 large color plates, six line drawings and three informational tables. Many of the clearwing moths covered in the publication have a geographic range that includes the eastern seaboard and deep south.

For a copy, please write to: Publications Office, Cooperative Extension Service, Michigan State University, Room 10B, Agricultural Hall, East Lansing, Michigan 48824-1039 (Price \$7.50).

WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Last Name	First Name					
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Indi	ividual Mem	bership	(\$4.00/year))		
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4-H or	Scouts		Photography			
Extens	ion work		Physiology			
Life H Biolog	istory y, Behavior		Apiculture			
Other						
SPECIFIC IN	TEREST (Ord	ler, Fam	ily, Genus)			
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Wisconsin Entomological Society Les Ferge, Editor 7119 Hubbard Ave. Middleton WI 53562